



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

NOV 30 2012

The Honorable Leonard Forsman  
Chairman  
Suquamish Tribe  
PO Box 498  
Suquamish, Washington 98392

Dear Chairman Forsman:

I am writing to you about the recently-established Bremerton Gasworks Superfund Site and to inquire about the Suquamish Tribe's interest in entering into formal government-to-government consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency as we begin the investigation stage of our work at the Site.

The Site, located in north Bremerton along Port Washington Narrows, was listed on the National Priorities List on May 10, 2012. With its designation as a Superfund site, the EPA is now beginning the process of determining the nature and extent of the contamination associated with the Site, the risks that contamination poses to people and environmental receptors, and the approach that will be used to clean up the contamination. The EPA is also working to define the roles of key stakeholders, including the Suquamish Tribe, as we conduct our work at the Site.

We are currently working with your staff to determine the Tribe's role in the work that will culminate in a cleanup plan for the Site and to establish the funding mechanism to support those efforts. My staff will continue to work closely with Rich Brooks and Alison O'Sullivan during these early stages of the planning process through the development of the cleanup plan for the Site. We anticipate that their involvement will be valuable and constructive, as has been the case with other site cleanup efforts. If this approach needs further refinement to better address the Suquamish Tribe's needs, please let me know what changes we can make.

The EPA recognizes its unique legal relationship with Tribal governments as set forth in the United States Constitution, treaties, statutes, executive orders, and court decisions. Federal policies instruct the EPA to have regular and meaningful consultation with federally recognized tribal governments. We want to ensure that we have regular and meaningful consultations with the Suquamish Tribe throughout the cleanup process for the Site. The EPA envisions government-to-government consultation as a process of two-way communication that works toward fully understanding and considering the concerns of the affected Tribes before the EPA implements its cleanup decision. We are interested in tailoring the consultation process to the needs and preferences of your Tribe.

I have designated Rick Albright, Director of the Office of Environmental Cleanup, to consult with you about this Site. I believe Mr. Albright is the most appropriate official to meet with the Tribal Council because he has a strong understanding of the Superfund process, and has been following developments at the Site. If the Tribal Council would like to meet with Mr. Albright, please contact Jennifer Brave, his Administrative Assistant, at (206) 553-6241, to schedule a consultation.

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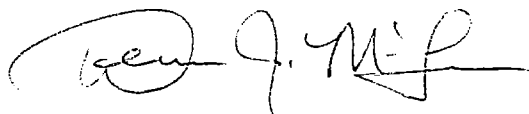


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In the meantime, should you have any questions regarding consultation or any aspect of the Bremerton Gasworks cleanup, please do not hesitate to call. Bill Ryan is the EPA's Remedial Project Manager for the Site and can be reached at (206) 553-8561, or [ryan.william@epa.gov](mailto:ryan.william@epa.gov).

We look forward to working with the Suquamish Tribe in our efforts to clean up the Bremerton Gasworks Superfund Site and reduce or eliminate the associated risks to people and the Puget Sound.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. McLerran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Dennis J. McLerran  
Regional Administrator

cc: Mr. Rich Brooks,  
Suquamish Tribe

Ms. Alison O'Sullivan,  
Suquamish Tribe